

News briefs

Suspicious object

A security forces military working dog alerted on an object underneath a contractor's sand truck Sept. 9, prompting base officials to cordon a 1,000-foot area near the contractor gate.

As a precaution, nearly a dozen buildings in the cordon area were evacuated while base and local German officials investigated the incident.

German and U.S. explosive ordnance disposal teams responded immediately to the site and determined the truck posed no danger. The situation was resolved later the same day.

Base security forces are operating in a heightened state of awareness during this time, especially in light of the one-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Smart card request

People who receive items from the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron should complete the Standard Asset Tracking System Smart Card request. The smart card takes the place of signed documentation when property is issued.

Not having a smart card with the proper authorizations will prevent people from receiving property.

For more information on where to find the request form or the program, call 452-6084.

Shuttle change

After the Operational Readiness Inspection, or Oct. 1, whichever comes last, the wing's shuttle service will change.

The wing shuttle will no longer provide service to Binsfeld, Herforst and Speicher government-leased housing areas. The wing shuttle service will maintain the current route between Spangdahlem AB and the Bitburg Annex. The perimeter shuttle service will no longer exist. The existing internal Spangdahlem AB loop/schedule however, will remain intact.

For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Rick Shaner, 452-6649.

Excellence in competition

The Security Forces Squadron hosts an elementary-level excellence in competition pistol match Sept. 24, beginning at 8 a.m. This is a change from the original date of Sept. 20.

Competition is open to all active duty, guard, reserve, retired military and NATO members.

Space is limited to 100 people. Medals will be awarded to the top ten percent who shoot above 270 points, out of a possible 300. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Robert Hart at 452-7095.

Eifel Times

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Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Sept. 13, 2002



Tech. Sgt. Colin Stevick

Staff Sgt. Durwin Kerr, 852nd Munitions Support Squadron munitions load monitor, Buechel, Germany, helps out with the clean-up of the Bitterfeld School in the eastern part of Germany. Ten U.S. Air Force members from Buechel joined with the 33rd Fighter Bomb Wing, JaboG 33, the German air force host unit at Buechel, to aid with flood relief cleanup work. The team worked nine days, helping clean up a school and other buildings around several towns in the area.

Buechel builds bonds during flood relief

By Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office.

Recently the world witnessed destructive floods along the Elbe and Mulde rivers — the worst ever reported in German history.

In response, U.S. personnel stepped up to help their German neighbors.

Members of the 852nd Munitions Support Squadron joined the 33rd Fighter Bomb Wing, JaboG 33, their German host unit at Buechel, to aid with flood relief cleanup work in the eastern part of Germany.

"When an e-mail came down from the commander asking for help, I jumped right on it," said Staff Sgt. Durwin A. Kerr munitions load monitor, one of the 10 participants who went. "For me it was an opportunity to help out, and at the same time give the U.S. a good image."

While quite a few people volunteered to go, the 852nd MUNSS' mission only allowed for 10 people to join the larger contingent of German air force members of the 33rd Fighter Bomber Wing. For the U.S. participants, the operation started Aug. 22 and ended Aug. 30, and mainly involved clean-up missions.

"Initially we did maintenance on the Aken dike by removing sandbags, emptying them out and letting the dike dry out," said Staff Sgt. Paul McCarthy, independent duty medical technician. "We then patrolled the dike to see if there were any leaks."

The help given through German-American efforts was definitely needed by the flood victims in the Anhalt-Zerbst district, in the area of Jessen/Wittenberg and in the city of Battered.

See Flood, Page 8

Team Eifel congratulates 41 selected for captain

More than 3,700 officers, 41 of those from Spangdahlem Air Base, received good news Sept. 5 when the Air Force announced the results of the calendar 2002B line and judge advocate general captain central selection promotion boards.

The following Team Eifel lieutenants were selected for promotion to captain:

52nd Civil Engineer Squadron
Randall Lucas

52nd Communications Squadron
Michael Pecher and Ross Savedra

52nd Component Maintenance Squadron
Stephen O'Brian

52nd Contracting Squadron
Jessica Williams

52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron
Charles St. Sauver

52nd Fighter Wing
Claudia Bermudez

52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron
Jessica Pinto and Jennifer Welch

52nd Medical Group
Quinn Donnelly

52nd Munitions Support Squadron, Kleine Brogel, Belgium
Gary Tucker

52nd Operations Support Squadron
James Bono, Corrine Gilliam, Julia Larson and Emily Van Arman

See Captain, Page 2

Practicing force protection tenets vital for security of Team Eifel members, equipment

By Master Sgt. Terry Wilson
52nd Security Forces Squadron

With all the attention Anti-terrorism and Force Protection receives in the media, it's easy to lose track of where base members fit into the big scheme of things. Below is a review of the basics -- the tenets of force protection.

Keep a low profile

The idea is to tone down dress and conduct to blend in.

- Avoid publicity, going out in large groups and civil disturbances/demonstrations.

- Don't display military patches, logos or decals on clothing, luggage and vehicles.

- Conceal military equipment and field gear in vehicles.

Be unpredictable

Daily routines develop into patterns terrorists could use against Americans.

- Vary routes and departure times to and from work.

- Don't exercise at the same time and place each day; never exercise alone, on deserted streets or country roads.

- Let someone know where you're going, what you'll be doing and when you'll be back.

Be alert — be suspicious

By being aware of surroundings, people are better able to notice suspicious activities. Report everything

out of the ordinary to security forces at 452-6666.

- Be alert to strangers who are on government property for no apparent reason.

- Take notice of vehicles or packages that seem out of place.

- Write down license numbers of suspicious vehicles; note descriptions of occupants.

- Pay particular attention in controlled and restricted areas; challenge or report anyone not displaying proper credentials or using proper procedures.

These tenets were developed to prevent base members from becoming targets of terrorist attacks. The first two protect individual people, while the third -- be alert -- does much more. By being alert and suspicious and reporting suspicious activities, the AT/FP process is set in motion.

With an accurate report of suspicious activity, informed decisions concerning the base's force protection posture can be made. With increased security awareness and enhanced observation and deterrence capabilities, base members become harder targets. If terrorists are watching the base, they'll either be caught or will see the posture change and leave.

This process is critical and it starts with each individual. The base has a limited number of security members, but thousands of people live and work here. The best defense against acts of terrorism begins with the community.

Accidents

By John W. Keeler
52nd Security Forces Squadron
Reports and Analysis

Seventeen Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, two of which were major.

- The first major accident was near Herforst on L-46. An airman and two passengers were traveling from Speicher to Herforst when the airman lost control of her vehicle, hit a yield sign and then a tree.

Polizei were the first to arrive on scene to provide assistance and

immediately suspected alcohol was a contributing factor. They administered a Breathalyzer test to the driver and the results were under the German standard at .037. The driver had an injury to her neck. One passenger suffered a minor cut above her left eye and the other had moderate back and shoulder injuries. The vehiculwas towed from the scene.

- The second accident was on B-51 near Bitburg. Polizei determined an airman and three passengers passed other vehicles in a no-passing zone at a high rate

of speed. The airman lost control and overturned her vehicle. The driver and passengers were taken to the Bitburg Krankenhaus where they were treated for neck injuries. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

The 15 minor accidents involved:

- 13 from inattentive driving.
- Two while backing.

In addition, 38 citations were issued, and the year's 36th charge for driving under the influence was given Sept. 7.

Spangdahlem housing to undergo heat line repairs

Contractors recently started digging in the Spangdahlem Air Base housing area to replace valves and test heating lines for leaks.

The lines, which are 22-years old, are leaking and have a failing leak detection system, which requires replacement. The lines are losing more than 800 gallons of water each day. This loss has severe impact on the new water boilers recently installed in Spangdahlem AB housing.

Introducing 800 gallons of fresh water per day accelerates the corrosion of the new boilers cutting their lifetime expectancy from 25 to five years and costs about \$6 million in additional replacement funds.

The project will be carried out in three phases. The phases are expected to last approximately three weeks each. However, this is dependent on the number of leaks existing in the system. The project

will be ongoing until all phases are completed or when the heating season starts. If not completed by the heating season, the contractor will finish the work next spring.

The contractor will shut off the boiler at 8 a.m. most mornings. This allows the lines to cool and the contractor to accomplish the work. Each building in housing has two, 267-gallon hot water storage tanks.

These tanks will be depleted by late morning or early afternoon, depending on how well occupants conserve hot water. The contractor will fire up the boilers at 6 p.m., so the hot water storage tanks are recharged by midnight each day.

Occupants in buildings affected by phases II and III of the project will be notified with flyers two weeks prior to phase start up.

For more information, call construction management at 452-7214.

Captain

Continued from Page 1

52nd Security Forces Squadron

Beverly Baker, Matthew Pignataro and Marco Tassone

52nd Services Squadron

John Ponton

22nd Fighter Squadron

Darin Earnest, Corey Hermesesch, Michael Hurt, Ryan Petersen, Matthew Poisson and Travis Ruhl.

23rd Fighter Squadron

Michelle Demaggio, Jonathan Dowty, Steven Frodsham, Jimmy Jones, Matthew Renbarger and Eric Tramel.

81st Fighter Squadron

Chad Anthony, Sean Baerman, Geremiah Brekke, Michael Bullard, William Reynolds and Julie Whittingham

470th Air Base Squadron, NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen

Russell Williams

606th Air Control Squadron

Aaron Hatch and Nancy Velie

752nd Munitions Support Squadron

Volk Air Base, Netherlands

Shawn Kitchin

The entire list is posted on the Air Force Personnel Center Web site.

The boards convened at the Air Force Personnel Center on June 10 to consider 3,752 first lieutenants for promotion.

Selection statistics for those considered in-the-promotion zone include 3,700 line officers selected from 3,715 considered for a 99.6-percent select rate. All 37 of the JAG officers considered were selected.

Statistics for those considered above-the-promotion zone include three line officers selected from 10 considered for a 30-percent selection rate. There were no JAG candidates. (Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

Officials give guidelines on rental cars

Staff Sgt. David W. Scott
52nd Fighter Wing Safety Office

When people first arrive at Spangdahlem Air Base, transportation is an issue. Some people drive rental cars or borrow a friend's car. However, these practices are illegal unless the operator has a U.S. Army Europe license.

After training and testing, it can take a new member two weeks on average to obtain a USAREUR license. So most new people rely on their sponsor and friends for transportation.

However, for extreme hardships, the base mission support group commander can make exceptions to this rule. This exception is made on a case-by-case basis that grants an exception to new arrivals to drive in Germany without a U.S. forces certificate of license for up to 30 days. To be considered for the exception, all of the following requirements must be met:

- The new arrival must be a sponsor and he or she must have previously had a U.S. Forces certificate of license or, based on his or her position or age, is considered to be mature and responsible.

- The new arrival must have a valid U.S. driver's license and an international drivers license or an official German translation of a U.S. driver's license.

- Written authorization must specify how long the individual is authorized to drive without the USAREUR license. It must also include that the authorization only applies to German-plated or Army and Air Force Exchange Service rental vehicles and to privately-owned vehicles that have been properly registered and insured.

In addition the authorization only applies to the class or classes of vehicles on the individual's U.S. drivers license. The authorization will not be granted for motorcycles. This written authorization must be prepared in English and German and people must have both copies in possession when operating a vehicle. People must present both copies when requested by authorities.

Though this may be a little inconvenient for people first arriving at an overseas location, it's important to start out a new tour on the right foot and safely.

For more information, call security forces licensing at 452-6187.

Video holiday greetings team comes to Spang

By Staff Sgt. Brigita Lords
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Eifel members who won't be home for the holiday season will soon have an opportunity to send a video message to those back home.

A video team from the Army and Air Force Hometown News Agency visits Spangdahlem Air Base Sept. 26-27 to tape holiday greetings of service members, their families and Defense Department U.S. civilian employees. The messages are distributed to more than 1,100 TV and cable outlets in the United States.

Appointments, which are strongly recommended, will be scheduled in five-minute increments throughout each day. To sign up for the taping event, which will take place in Hangar 1 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., call the public affairs office at 452-4251.

However, before heading over to send holiday cheer, there are three important things to keep in mind:

- People are encouraged to bring family members to the taping, but all active-duty members must be in uniform.

- Remember to bring correct stateside addresses and phone numbers of the family members to whom

the greetings are being sent. Providing accurate information allows hometown television stations to let families know when to watch.

- While taping the message people must include who they are, where they are stationed and where they live. For example: "Season's Greetings from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. I'm Staff Sgt. Jane Doe, this is my husband Brian, and our son Chad. We'll be in Germany for the holidays but, we want to wish the Doe family in Alden, New York, a happy holiday season."

All greeting are sent to TV and radio stations based on the submitter's hometown zip code. Stations that subscribe to the hometown news products receive the video and audio spots to air as a public service throughout the holidays.

Along with airing on hometown TV and radio stations, more than 600 holiday greetings can be viewed on the hometown news Web site at <http://hn.afnews.af.mil/>. Because of the size of the files, and the number of tapings, not all greetings are put on the Web site.

Last year HTN teams recorded more than 10,300 greetings, which ultimately reached an audience estimated in the tens of millions.



Master Sgt. Keith Reed

Staff Sgt. Natasha Schelper, a broadcaster deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, from the Air Force News Agency in San Antonio, signals Tech. Sgt. Robert Robinson, wife, Teresa, and their children, Ashley, Robert and Julia, to begin their holiday greeting to say hello and happy holidays to family at home. The three-person team will travel throughout Europe, stopping at Spangdahlem Air Base Sept. 26-27. The team will produce more than a thousand greeting spots to help families at home see their loved ones assigned overseas. To sign up to tape a greeting, call the public affairs office at 452-4251.

Eifel Elite



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

Senior Airman Jayson Blackledge, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron, is this week's Top Saber Performer.

Top Saber Performer

Name: Senior Airman Jayson M. Blackledge
Unit: 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron
Duty title: Aircrew egress systems journeyman
Hometown: Cumberland, R.I.
Time in Service: Five years

Nominee's contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success:

While deployed to Malacky, Slovakia, he assisted numerous sections with their duties. He assisted weapons personnel by removing, cleaning and reinstalling some of the aircraft parts. He also helped the engine shop during a number two-engine removal, removal of engine fire loop and installation of the engine. He was nominated for the Knuckle Buster Award given to the top performer during the deployment.

Off-duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits:

Pursuing associate's degree in aircraft systems technology

What do you do for fun? Or, What's a fun thing you've done lately?

Reading books, listening to music, traveling through Europe and hanging out with friends.

What do you like most about being stationed here? Being centrally located within Europe.

What's one thing you'd like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base? More parking and a larger base exchange and mall area.



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

The 52nd Maintenance Operation Squadron Maintenance Training Flight is this week's Top Saber Team.

Top Saber Team

Unit name: 52nd Maintenance Operation Squadron Maintenance Training Flight
Number of members: 12

Unit responsibilities: The MTF is directly linked to the mission success of the 52nd Maintenance Group, providing course administration, course instruction, program management and maintenance of faculty qualifications. It also offers Community College of the Air Force-accredited courses to more than 2,000 maintenance personnel.

Latest contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success: The MTF was directed to move from building 78 into building 235 with short notice as part of an overall reorganization of the former 52nd Logistics Group into the 52nd Maintenance Group. The MTF worked around training scheduled on both sides of the move and used facilities provided by the 372nd Training Squadron, Det. 17, to provide uninterrupted service.

Other contributions throughout the year: MTF implemented a "Wing Training Day" program in conjunction with 372nd TRS quality assurance and the 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron. This effort provides a surge of class availability reducing the burden on individuals and shops that would otherwise have to schedule training at the expense of production.

Tops in Blue returns to Spangdahlem Air Base

'Spirit of America' promises to please everyone's ears

By 2nd Lt Gerardo D. Gonzalez
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

The United States Air Force's own entertainment showcase, Tops in Blue, will put on a free all-ages show Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center.

The Tops in Blue 2002 team will treat the audience to a 90-minute musical performance of the "Spirit of America," this year's theme.

"Tops in Blue is a show that is the best of the best in the Air Force and without a doubt whoever comes to see it will take that home with them," said Jake Jacobs, Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activities Center programs director. "It doesn't matter if you only like country or rock 'n' roll, or one type of genre ... Tops in Blue covers it all. There is something for everyone and that's what makes it a winner."

From New York to Miami and Detroit down to Texas, this year's show includes the sounds of big-band swing, hot Latin

music and down home country tunes, said Tom Edwards, show producer and director of Air Force Entertainment. At each stop along the way, Tops in Blue will celebrate the diverse American music that captures our heritage and represents our nation's pride.

This year's team of 30 active duty military members will travel to 20 countries and perform more than 130 shows, said Edwards.

Members of Tops in Blue are volunteers from across the Air Force who are chosen for their performance abilities after auditioning and winning at base-level talent contests. They undergo a 45-day training period after which they embark on a nine-month worldwide tour of military installations and cities.

Tops in Blue works very hard, said Jacobs. They not only have to prepare for the performances by rehearsing but also take care of the multitude of other tasks needed to make the show happen. It is not uncommon for Tops in Blue members to be assigned two or three additional duties on top of performing, he added.

"It's a grueling schedule," said Jacobs, who traveled with

the 2001 team during their tour of U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

The team arrives for a show, sets up, performs, meets the audience, packs-up and they are off to the next location, said Jacobs. In between all this activity they have to find time to eat and get a few hours of sleep.

People can help make the Tops in Blue visit to Spangdahlem AB a complete success by volunteering, said Jacobs. Dozens of volunteers are needed the day before, the day during and the day after the show to help set up the fitness center, usher or assist with any other tasks required by the team.

Food is also a nice touch, said Jacobs. Simple gestures such as bringing the team peanut butter and jelly sandwiches makes a difference. It gives the performers a little taste of home.

This year's show is again expected to draw a large crowd so it's a good idea to get there early, said Jacobs. Due to safety reasons, officials will conduct a head count and cut off the line if the number of people exceeds the fitness center's holding capacity. The doors will open approximately 20 minutes prior to the start of the show.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help during the Tops in Blue visit to Spangdahlem AB should call Jacobs at 452-7381.

Spang airmen receive Articles 15, confinement

(Editor's note: Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice does not specify particular punishments for any offense. Commanders considering nonjudicial punishment consider the nature of the offense; the record of the servicemember; the needs for good order and discipline; and the effect of nonjudicial punishment of the servicemember and the servicemember's record.)

During August, 15 Spangdahlem Air Base airmen received nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Also in August, two airmen were convicted in courts-martial and one in July.

■ A staff sergeant violated Article 111 by driving drunk. The commander imposed a reduction to senior airman.

■ A senior airman violated Article 111 by driving drunk. The commander imposed a reduction to airman first class.

■ A senior airman violated Article 134 by fleeing the scene of an accident. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman first class, 30 days extra duty and a reprimand.

■ A senior airman violated Article 111 by driving drunk. The commander imposed a

reduction to airman first class.

■ A senior airman violated Article 92 by being derelict in the performance of assigned duties. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman first class.

■ A senior airman violated Article 86 by failing to go to an appointment. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman first class, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

■ A senior airman violated Article 134 by displaying disorderly conduct on base. The commander imposed a reprimand.

■ An airman first class violated Article 111 by driving drunk. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman and 14 days extra duty.

■ An airman first class violated Article 108 by damaging military property. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$100 for two months and a reprimand.

■ An airman first class violated Article 92 by failing to obey the dress and appearance standards on base. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman, forfeiture of \$100 for two months and a reprimand.

■ An airman first class violated Article 111 by driving drunk. The commander imposed a reduction to airman.

■ An airman first class violated Article 86 by failing to go to an appointment. The commander imposed a reduction to airman, a suspended forfeiture of \$619 for two months and 15 days extra duty.

■ An airman first class violated Article 111 by driving drunk. The commander imposed a reduction to airman and 30 days extra duty.

■ An airman first class violated Article 86 by failing to return from leave on time. The commander imposed a suspended reduction to airman, 14 days extra duty and a reprimand.

■ An airman violated Article 111 by driving drunk. The commander imposed a reduction to airman basic, 15 days extra duty, 30 days restriction and a reprimand.

Courts-martial

■ An airman from the 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron was found guilty and sentenced in a special court-martial July 31.

Airman 1st Class Stephen P. Gosselin II was found guilty of wrongfully using and distributing marijuana, and of using and bringing onto a military installation

mushrooms containing psilocybin in violation of Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Gosselin was sentenced to confinement for 30 days, a bad conduct discharge and reduction to airman basic.

■ An airman from the 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron was found guilty and sentenced in a special court-martial Aug. 1.

Airman Basic Trevor Gillett was found guilty of wrongfully distributing percocet and of assaulting another airman in violation of Articles 112a and 128 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Gillett was sentenced to confinement for five months and a bad conduct discharge.

■ An airman from the 52nd EMS was found guilty in a special court-martial and sentenced by a judge alone Aug. 12.

Airman 1st Class Jesse Finley was found guilty of wrongfully using marijuana and mushrooms containing psilocybin. He pleaded guilty to two specifications in violation of Article 112a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Finley was sentenced to confinement for 14 days, reduction to airman basic and a bad conduct discharge.

Nematodes, other pests found in soil threaten stateside farmers

Officials remind people to wash vehicles before shipping

By Robert Szostek
U.S. European Command Customs Public Affairs Office

MANNHEIM, Germany -- Why are customs guys worried about dirt on cars prior to shipping them to the United States? Why did the packers say to wash lawn furniture?

The answer to these questions is that Europe has many agricultural pests that don't exist in the United States, and

soil is a natural hideout for them. If they enter the USA, they can cause great damage to our farming economy.

"You can easily introduce pests into the USA," said Delcio Rivera, U.S. Department of Agriculture adviser to the European Command.

It only takes that little bit of soil on cars, lawn furniture, bicycles, shoes, boots, coats or field gear.

Military vehicles and equipment are especially prone to infestation by dirt, mud and soil on deployments or training missions.

"For example, the burrowing nematode is not native to

the states," Rivera explained, "but could hide in the mud on your boots. If you took that mud stateside, the nematode eggs could later hatch and attack the roots of citrus trees."

Losses on infested trees cost approximately \$2.5 million annually. The golden nematode attacks potatoes and tomatoes reducing yields by as much as 80 percent. It threatens annual crop yields of over \$1 billion.

That is why it is important to clean everything shipped or mailed home.

Call the customs office at 452-6027 to find out more about agricultural threats to the United States or visit www.hqsareur.army.mil/opm/customs.htm.

Pilot teamwork reveals airpower strength at NATO Air Meet 2002 at Norwegian base

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

OERLAND MAIN AIR STATION, Norway -- Throughout the first two weeks in September, NATO Air Meet 2002 will provide pilots of 12 nations and NATO forces the opportunity to test their limits, learn new roles and get to know the strengths NATO allies bring to the fight. The goal is to improve combined air operations interoperability.

"Here, we have a lot of different countries working together and although many procedures are standard, there are a few operational processes that differ," said Maj. Hans Ole Sandnes, 338th Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot, Norwegian air force, and NATO Air Meet operations deputy chief. "What we can get out of this is standardizing procedures, reaffirming tactics and strengthening international ties."

According to Capt. Chris Kibble, 23rd Fighter Squadron F-16CJ pilot, NATO standards are common for U.S. and other allied pilots.

"Some radio terms may differ, but that's what mission planning is for -- ironing out



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
Capt. Nathaniel Johnson, 23rd Fighter Squadron pilot, and Maj. James Robinson, 23rd FS deployed commander, and other pilots from allied nations listen for instructions during a NATO Air Meet "blue air" mission planning meeting Monday.

such problems and recognizing dissimilar operational procedures before you're in the air," he explained.

Mission planning, which can take a day or more, is where pilots of various nations join forces to ensure training mission success. Language isn't much of a barrier

since everyone speaks English, the international aviation language, Kibble explained. Also, NATO, U.S. and other allied air operation standards are similar, so communications are often understood.

At daily planning meetings, the "blue air" team holds a "NATO brainstorming

session" to devise the smartest way to accomplish their mission objective and thwart enemy defenses based on intelligence information. "Red air" does the same, only their plan is to thwart "blue air" mission success.

Mission planning is where all questions are answered, said Kibble. By the end of the day, everyone understands dissimilar terms and procedures, and knows mission details, including how they're going to handle threats to the flight package, such as air-to-air combat and surface-to-air missile sites.

According to Maj. James Robinson, 23rd FS deployed commander, although practice may enhance allied interoperability, NATO teamwork comes naturally when the call comes to completing a mission.

"It would work if it had to," he said, "but such exercises offer us an opportunity to practice teamwork and communications with NATO allies. This way, we can tap into our past experiences working with other countries during exercises like this, and know what assets each country brings to the fight."

23rd FS 'Fighting Hawks' spread wings, fly high

Spang pilots having 'fun' with fewer flight restrictions

By Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

OERLAND MAIN AIR STATION, Norway -- When 23rd Fighter Squadron pilots flew in for NATO Air Meet 2002 Aug. 29, they anticipated practicing the same tactical maneuvers for the next two weeks they typically fly over German skies.

However, the suppression of enemy air defense mission they thought they'd be doing has turned out to be more "fun" than that, according to Capt. Chris Kibble, 23rd Fighter Squadron pilot.

It turns out that Norwegian skies are much more open and the Fighting Hawks are taking the opportunity to spread their wings and fly as high and as quickly as they need to thwart the enemy to ensure mission success.

"Originally, we planned to do a lot of SEAD here," he said, "but the good thing about Norway is the lack of restrictions on the airspace here. Over Germany we can't go supersonic; we can't use chaff and flare, and flying altitudes are strictly limited."

Over time, pilots can develop a habit of only flying within the limitations to which they must often conform, Kibble explained.

"So it's good to come out here and be able to use the aircraft like you really would and get used to doing tactics you'd need to use to protect yourself and the air package," he said. "It ties in with the squadron's typical real-world mission because we do the same stuff out here that we do at Spang, but can do it to a greater extent out here."

Throughout the meet, 23rd FS pilots are flying one four-ship daily, usually as "blue air," either as the "striker," who's mission is to destroy ground targets, or as offensive

air-to-air, protecting the strikers. Also flying on the blue air team are French, Portuguese, Greek, Belgian and Dutch air forces. Flying red air are Turkish, Spanish, Canadian and British forces. Norwegian and German forces and American F-15s from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, play both roles throughout the exercise.

The Hawks took to the skies the first day of NAM '02 flying on Sept. 2, as offensive air-to-air for the blue air team. Their job was to push out in front of an imaginary "fight's on" line about 10 minutes in front of the strikers, the aircraft carrying bombs, and sweep out "red air" members from the area. This cleared the way for the strikers to come in, hit their targets and make it back safely.

"The most exciting part of Tuesday's mission was at the end of the sortie," said Capt. Nathaniel Johnson, pilot. "At the end, we still had a lot of fuel, so we were able to push out into the red air side and shoot down some of their high-valued airborne assets, including an airborne warning and control system aircraft and a tanker. Basically, we were able to do it because we were able to climb up to 40,000 feet to make it work."

The following day, 23rd FS pilots flew surface-attack missions, simulating bombing airfields, and a command and control facility, said Maj. James Robinson, 23rd FS deployed commander. Then the Hawks turned around to fly an air-to-air role, protecting the strikers.

"In real-world operations, F-15s designed for air-to-air combat would be out front and we'd be imbedded with them or alongside them to help. So although air-to-air isn't our primary job, it is something we practice all the time and is a big part of the SEAD mission," he said.

Squadron pilots have also taken the opportunity to use basic defense technology they're unable to practice using back at home. The Fighting Hawks were able to use chaff to confuse enemy radar during night flying operations Sept. 4.

"It's something good for us to train with and against because we don't get to use it in Germany. The benefit was that we were able to see the effects of chaff on our radar," said Robinson.



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
Staff Sgt. Kevin Driscoll and Airmen 1st Class Daniel Savage and Joseph Nelson, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron munitions flight weapons load crew, remove argon canisters from an AIM-9 seeker head after the 23rd Fighter Squadron F-16CJ arrived in Norway Aug. 29. About 80 members of the 23rd FS and 52nd Fighter Wing, and five F-16CJs deployed to the Norwegian air station recently for NATO Air Meet 2002.

Global war on terrorism now new order of business

By Master Sgt. Joe Bela
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany -- Life for Americans has changed following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on United States, and nowhere is that more evident than at U.S. military installations, said the commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

"Business as usual, as we knew it, has changed. The 'Global War on Terrorism' is now our business," said Gen. Gregory S. Martin, during a Sept. 3 interview with Air Force News.

But the commitment to fighting terrorism has its price as people's lives changed to accommodate a more cautious lifestyle. Everyday life now includes navigating through physical barriers. Intense security checks now lead to extended lines and longer waits at installation gates.

"And as much as I would like for us to say that we will once again return to some sense of normalcy," said Martin. "The truth is ... we're combating a new enemy, one without borders, and 9-11 has boosted the level of normal force protection much higher.

"All of us must be engaged. It's a new level of awareness that I feel is important for all of us to accept. It will place a greater strain on some of our people but it's something we have to live with."

Security forces is at the forefront of force protection and as terrorist activity escalates so does the job of protecting mission-ready assets and lives, said Col. John Salley, director of security forces at headquarters USAFE.

"We're doing more to increase our detection and deterrence capabilities. Of course, there are the obvious things like additional postings and inspections," said Salley. "If the terrorists know we're out to find them, they are less likely to go after a target."

Salley said one terrorist deterrent in USAFE is the formation of "large vehicle search areas" designed to accommodate the inspection of large vehicles before they enter a base. "These locations are manned because using large vehicles is a proven terrorist means and method of operation. Large vehicles can easily hide weapons or improvised (explosives). We can't eliminate all the threats, but what we can do is mitigate the situation."

"The problem when dealing with terrorists is you never quite know when you're successful unless you catch the guy in the act," said Martin. "If you prevent terrorists from perpetrating the act but you don't find them, you can

become complacent. You can begin to believe that you have not made a difference.

"What we have to believe is that the absence of a terrorist act is a measure of success every day, and we have to let our people know they've made a difference," he said. "We have to thank those people who do force protection."

With additional manpower needed to sustain current force protection measures, security forces count on Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel to augment some staff positions, but fieldwork is a different matter. Soon after 9-11, between 800 and 1,000 active-duty airmen with different Air Force specialty codes were called to assist security forces.

"With the additional posting and not enough security forces numbers to go around, we primarily have to rely on augmentation forces. A lot of people from many different career fields are out there doing the job very well and we appreciate it," said Salley.

"We're well aware that when we get an augmentee from another AFSC, there is a deficit in that person's organization. In some cases augmentees are with us 90 days. That's a tough thing to do and we appreciate it probably more than anyone else," he said.

"Personally, I've got great respect for these men and women. Many of them have come and done the job without saying a word," said Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Omdal, headquarters USAFE security forces manager. "One staff sergeant from the supply organization just had another child and she was telling me she had to get up at 4:30 in the morning to make it in by 6 a.m.; that's great dedication.

"I think that when you talk to augmentees, for the most part, they enjoy the fact they've integrated as part of the (security forces) team in spite of the hardship. They feel they are part of a unit with a sense of loyalty and I know they have a better appreciation for what we do as well."

The greater emphasis on force protection is dependent on a great majority of the people, and Martin is concerned.

"We have the finest professionals in the world. If nothing else, 9-11 gave our nation a great sense of respect and appreciation for those people who serve in uniform, not only those of us in the military, but also our police, fire department and our medical corps," said the general.

"All these people serve others before themselves, but by the same token they can get worn out. So I've asked Lt. Gen. (Glen W.) Moorhead (III) (USAFE vice commander)

to lead a task force that's looking hard at ways to streamline some of the activities that perhaps aren't as important as they used to be," he said. "Wherever possible, I think we need to back up and look at activities that can be consolidated."

The task force is currently gathering findings and due to report the results at the end of October.

"It's very important for all of us to realize that when we are asked to respond to a contingency, we will go into a surge mode. What I'm concerned about is making sure we have the capacity to surge," said Martin.

"We need to make sure we haven't beaten out that capacity with our normal day-to-day operations. So we have to look for ways to reduce the workload to meet the need for increased force protection, daily operations, and contingencies without burning our people out," he added.

After Sept. 11, despite taking on Operation Enduring Freedom's humanitarian mission and deploying people to support homeland defense with Operation Noble Eagle, USAFE continued to support its commitments to ongoing steady state contingencies — Operation Southern Watch, Operation Northern Watch, and the Balkans.

"And when you consider that we ran the OEF humanitarian airlift operation from Ramstein with the help of the Army's 21st Theater Support Command, and with German (military) airlift support and force protection, you begin to understand what a magnificent team we have here," said the general.

"We're a team that should be rightfully proud of its contributions, and I'm certainly proud to serve on it," he said.

Looking to the future, Martin believes we have to get behind 9-11 and think about the implications.

"The global war on terrorism has to be our focus. But probably most importantly, we can't forget that there are other aspects of our lives we have to pay attention to as well," said Martin.

"We can't let off the concept of improving our facilities and housing. We can't let off the concept of doing our jobs professionally while (paying) attention to the standards," he said. "In most cases, these things lead to readiness and we never quite know when we will be called upon to react with our most capable force. It must be ready and it must not atrophy while we divert our attention."

Air Force secretary honors casualties, looks to future

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — In a speech to the service's first sergeants, the secretary of the Air Force paid homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the war on terrorism, and painted a picture of the road that lies ahead.

While much has been accomplished, said Dr. James G. Roche, there is much left to do.

"We've achieved many of our objectives, but there remains much work to be done," Roche said at the Worldwide First Sergeant's Conference held recently in Jacksonville, Fla.

"We can't afford to get complacent or think for a moment we've got this enemy beaten," he said. "We need to prepare and resolve ourselves to see this through to the finish, regardless of where the fight takes us."

The forces of al-Qaida, he warned, are hard at work plotting their next acts of terror.

"They are a determined enemy and are likely now working on their next plan," he said. "We need to and will do our part to stop that from happening."

As armed conflicts go, casualties in the war

on terrorism have been relatively light, but Roche asked the assembled first sergeants to remember airmen who paid the ultimate price.

"Let's never forget the seven of our fellow airmen who have lost their lives in this fight. Their collective sacrifice, along with the countless heroes who have gone before them, is why we live free in this great country," he said.

Those fallen airmen include:

■ Master Sgt. Evander Andrews, a civil engineer from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho;

■ Master Sgt. William McDaniel II, a pararescuer from Kadena Air Base, Japan;

■ Tech. Sgt. John Chapman, a combat controller from Pope AFB, N.C.;

■ Tech. Sgt. Sean Corlew, an MC-130 Combat Shadow loadmaster from Hurlburt Field, Fla.;

■ Staff Sgt. Juan Ridout, a pararescuer from Kadena AB;

■ Staff Sgt. Anissa Shero, an MC-130 loadmaster from Hurlburt; and

■ Senior Airman Jason Cunningham, a pararescuer from Moody AFB, Ga.

Switching gears, the secretary turned his attention to challenges and priorities facing the service today.

"It's a very exciting time to be in our Air Force," he said. "As I think about our opportunities, I remain focused on the current century, not the (one) we left behind. As we look to the future, I ask you to briefly think about where we've been. We restructured and reorganized our force to meet a variety of threats versus a single threat, and we developed new ways of delivering military capability."

Of primary concern for both the near-term and long-range future, he said, is the expeditionary concept of operations.

"Fundamental to this effort is our transition to a capabilities-based expeditionary force," he said. "We need to make warfighting effects, and the capabilities we need to achieve them, the driving factor for everything we do."

To that end, the secretary said he and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper have several institutional challenges to keep in

mind, including saving money, employing platforms and evaluating strategies.

"We must find ways to reduce costs through the integration of enterprise systems, adoption of best practices and smarter management," he said.

According to the secretary, weapons delivery, intelligence gathering, interdiction and transport do not necessarily need to be assigned exclusively to large aircraft or small, to manned or unmanned systems, or to space.

"We need to continue our development of advanced technologies, such as (unmanned aerial vehicles), smaller weapons and multimission aircraft," he said. "We will never again build a single-mission aircraft."

Continued refinement of the air and space expeditionary force construct is also on the secretary's agenda.

"We need to continue to evaluate our AEF strategies to better deliver combat capability and manage the tempo of our operations for our combat support and low density/high demand assets — a title we need to retire in our time," he said. (Air Force Print News)



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kimberly Drake

Staff Sgt. Lee Manley, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, rings the last alarm during Spangdahlem Air Base's Patriot Day ceremony Wednesday. Hundreds of people attended the hour-long program, including military and family members, base civilians and local German dignitaries. After comments from Chaplain (Col.) Carl Andrews, 52nd Fighter Wing chaplain, and the Bitburg county commissioner, the wing participated in a wreath laying, moment of silence and bell ringing ceremony and the playing of "Amazing Grace" on bagpipes. The ceremony closed out with retreat, singing of the American and German national anthems, a 21-gun salute, playing of "Taps" and an F-16 fly-by.



Above: 52nd Fighter Wing Honor Guard members fold the American flag during Spangdahlem Air Base's Patriot Day ceremony Wednesday.

Right: Kaitlin Davis, daughter of Charles and Staff Sgt. Tabitha Davis, 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, watches the Patriot Day ceremony from bleachers in front of the wing headquarters building.



Team Eifel remembers on Patriot Day



Staff Sgt. Timothy Cook

American citizen Alvin R. Boudy Jr. and his horse, Cisco, show their patriotism outside Spangdahlem Air Base Wednesday. Boudy, originally from Texas now living in Trier, Germany, raising and training horses, felt compelled to show support for remembrance ceremonies at the base.

Flood

Continued from Page 1

Although the water level started to recess by two to three meters, it was still five meters above the normal level. Basements were still flooded and water was up to the doorways. In places where the dike had burst, houses had two meters of water on their floors.

"Everything that came in contact with water was contaminated and had to be thrown out. The area of devastation was large. Debris was lying throughout the streets since there weren't enough dumpsters to put everything in. We worked hand-in-hand with the Germans and the teamwork was awesome," said McCarthy. "One major tasking was to clean out a factory. All together we moved 60 to 80 tons of old furniture out of houses. Helpers were working 24 hours a day, six to seven days a week."

According to the McCarthy, it is going to take a long time to get everything done and cleaned up in the crisis areas.

Each morning, the commanders had meetings to decide where the helpers were needed for that day.

During the flood relief operation, the participants didn't stay in luxury accommodations. They either stayed in Army barracks, in the fields near the dike, at a gymnasium or in a classroom.

"From the colonel on all the way down to the airmen we pretty much did the same things," said Senior Airman Rizi Manzon, communications maintenance technician. "I think the operation helped our camaraderie with the German air force. Although we work with them in Buechel on a daily basis, we don't always talk to them like we did during the relief operation."

Not only did the operation strengthen the relationships between the German air force in Buechel, the people of the towns being helped were also very happy to see everyone.

"We moved from town to town and helped out wherever needed," said 1st Lt. Jeffrey R. Brown, mission support flight commander.

Brown explained how the local people first thought the Americans were Russians. "They weren't used to seeing a U.S. uniform, but people were very happy to see us helping."

In one town, a shop owner gave candy and three bottles



Tech. Sgt. Colin Stevick

Members of the U.S. and German Air Forces were presented with a thank-you sign from the elementary school in Bitterfeld, Germany.

of champagne. The locals cooked bratwurst and offered everyone sodas and water. Food was taken to the families in need, as well as to the helpers.

"The devastation that people experienced was shocking,"

Brown said. "It was important that we went out there as part of the JaboG 33 to show our support for not only our wing but also our host country."

According to Brown, working in these situations really draws people together, regardless of where people are from. "They all teamed up, did a lot of bonding and made good friends. It was hard work but it was one of the most rewarding things. It was also interesting to be represented as part of the JaboG 33."

"It was pretty impressive how many different organizations like the Red Cross, technical groups and military forces smoothly worked together," said Lt. Col. Richard G. Naughton, 852nd MUNSS commander. "The relationship between the Americans and Germans was absolutely seamless. If it wasn't, we weren't going to be able to do our job. The Americans got a tremendous experience out of this."

Lt. Col. Martin R. Schelleis, wing and base commander for the JaboG 33rd Fighter Bomber Wing said with their participation in the relief efforts, the members of the 852nd MUNSS showed utmost solidarity with the German populace and strong bonds with the GAF.

"The (affected) people were very thankful. For most of them it was their first contact ever with foreign soldiers, especially the Americans," Schelleis said.

He said that people worked very hard under difficult circumstances. Some had to stand in the water. There was high humidity and a mosquito problem. People had little sleep in uncomfortable accommodations and dehydration was an issue. The Americans proved to be friends and comrades.

In a continuation of that support, the Buechel Organization for Squadron Support, a non-profit private organization, is conducting a drive to collect canned goods, toys and clothing for flood victims in eastern Germany. Collection points are the Buechel, Bitburg Annex and Spangdahlem Air Base Airmen's Attics.

The BOSS group will collect the donated clothing and canned goods for delivery to the German Red Cross. The 33rd JaboG will deliver the donated toys to flood victims next week.

For more information about donating items, call the family support center at 452-9491.





Community Mailbox

Worship service

The annual unity Sunday worship service takes place Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Spangdahlem Air Base Bowling Alley pavillion. The theme is "One Family ... One Focus" and the worship service will be followed by a short communion and a picnic.

For more information, call the base chapel at 452-6711.

Marriage seminar

The base chapel sponsors a marriage seminar, beginning Tuesday from 7-8:30 p.m. in Spangdahlem Air Base building 139. The seminar consists of seven sessions, running consecutively each Tuesday. The seminar is for couples who are currently dating, engaged or already married.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Marc Peck at 452-6386 or 06561-947573 or the chapel at 452-6711.

ESL classes

The Spangdahlem Air Base Family Support Center offers "English as a Second Language" classes each Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-7 p.m., beginning Tuesday.

For more information, call 452-9491.

School news

■The Bitburg Middle School registrar's new office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon. Parents who need to register students or have questions about schedules, absences or other issues can call



Courtesy photo

Bird fun at Gondorf

Falcon and eagle shows are two of the attractions people can see at the Gondorf Animal and Fun Park near Spangdahlem Air Base. For more information about the park, turn to Page 11.

Janet Hinskey at 452-9031 or 452-9332.

■Bitburg Elementary School holds a child-find screening Sept. 24. The screening is for 3-5-year-old children with a suspected delay in language, social, motor, cognitive and/or self-help skills.

For more information or to sign-up for a screening, call 452-9210

■Spangdahlem Elementary School holds a child-find screening Sept. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The screening is for 3-4-year-old children with a suspected delay in language, social,

motor, cognitive or self-help skills.

The screening is open to children whose parents reside on Spangdahlem Air Base, or in the Spangdahlem AB "feeder plan."

For more information or to sign-up for a screening, call 452-5071 or 452-6881.

Support group

A meeting of the support group for families with attention deficit disorder takes place Sept. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in Spangdahlem Air Base building 427. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

For more information, e-mail myra@myrarock.com or call Myra Rock at 452-7545.

Spouses' meeting

The 606th Air Control Squadron spouses group meets Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bitburg Chapel Annex. For more information, e-mail Lisa Weiss at spouse606acs@yahoo.com or call 06568-969891.

Case-lot sale

The Bitburg Annex Commissary holds a case-lot sale Sept. 21-22. The store opens at 7 a.m. Sept. 21 and 10 a.m. Sept. 22.

Eifel School Board

An Eifel School Board public meeting takes place Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bitburg Middle School multi-purpose room. For more information, call Mia Checkley at 452-6849.

La Leche League

The La Leche League meets Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Bitburg Hospital conference room.

Meetings are open to mothers who are interested in or currently breastfeeding. Nurlings and children are welcome.

For more information, call Margaret Loffelman at 06565-7555 or Alice DaFoe at 06561-683893.

Boost Up Program

Military members can take advantage of a new program to "boost up" Military GI Bill benefits by up to \$5,400 by contributing up to \$600.

This program is only open to active-duty members who first entered active-duty on or after July 1, 1985.

Der Markt

Editorial Staff

Col. Stephen Mueller.....Commander
Capt. Angela Johnson.....Chief, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Rich Romero.....Internal Information
Staff Sgt. Cindy York.....Editor

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Contents of the Eifel Times are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the public affairs office.

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Col. Stephen Mueller

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a way to get answers to questions you still have after using your chain of command.

Direct Lines of general interest will be published in the Eifel Times and may be edited or paraphrased for brevity or clarity. Submit your Direct Line via:

■ DirectLine@spangdahlem.af.mil

■ Mailed to 52nd FW/PW, Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE 09126

■ To public affairs in building 23.
■ Concerns may also be sent via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are accepted. To receive a personal response you must include your name and phone number. Call the Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more information.

Number of days
since last DUI:

As of Thursday

5

You have a choice.
Call Airmen Against
Drunk Driving
at 452-2233.

Viewpoint

Sept. 13, 2002

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Command perspective

USAFE commander reflects on events since 9-11

By Gen. Gregory S. Martin
U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander

RAMSTEIN AIR

BASE, Germany --

So much has changed for freedom-loving nations since the terrible Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

As a result, the men and women of U.S. Air Forces in Europe continue to work around the clock, meeting the challenges of a changed global security environment.

Our freedoms were forever challenged when our home soil was viciously struck. Here in Europe, the global war on terrorism literally became job number one overnight.

Since that horrific day, the USAFE team has shouldered significantly heavier workloads. Increased force protection conditions, humanitarian aid missions, deployments downrange to take on unconventional threats and sustainment operations, have magnified the burden.

Airmen and civilian employees alike have



General Martin

dedicated themselves to working long hours to accomplish a most demanding mission. Innovation, 100 percent effort and flexibility have paved the way to success. But the road ahead is a long one and we must re-commit and dedicate ourselves to the uncertain challenges on the horizon.

The global war on terrorism not only affects the United States, but all of our coalition partners who also abhor terrorism's misguided violence. More than ever before, we join ranks with our European partners and the world community with a common purpose in this fight. We will continue to work side by side with military members from other nations and leverage our unified strengths to eradicate the threats we all face from terrorists and their known supporters.

We've captured and heeded some "lessons learned" during Operation Enduring Freedom, from both Air Force and coalition perspectives. We will continue to focus on mission support to better conduct and sustain ground and air combat operations. We must have our base infrastructure and expeditionary combat support in place prior to "wheels in the well" on the first aircraft sortie.

We've also learned new lessons concerning

the importance of interoperability with our coalition partners. While our forces have performed marvelously, each participating nation in this ongoing fight must continue to bring its expertise and strengths to the table.

The operations and personnel tempo throughout USAFE's area of responsibility has been, and will continue to be, high. I ask each supervisor, shop chief and leader to pay attention to signs of fatigue. Make sure our people are rested and ready, that they stay safe both on the job and off. We must always focus on taking care of the people who take care of the mission.

We need to be wise about the ongoing strain we place on our people, our families, and ourselves as we lean forward. Our mission - and our families -- need us to be ready to meet our daily responsibilities and, when called upon, to tackle the next challenge.

I am truly proud to lead this awesome and powerful USAFE team! Looking back, your efforts over the past year make it clear to me, and the American people, why we are the world's most respected Air Force. I personally thank you for your professionalism, sustained motivation, dedication and personal effort as well as your family members' support in sharing the burden we shoulder. (USAFE News Service)

Operational Readiness Inspection

Hitting curve balls in the fog

By Maj. Pete Hofelich
52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron commander

With our Phase I Operational Readiness Inspection upon us, Spangdahlem Air Base is certainly abuzz with the hustle and bustle of everyone getting ready.

This important evaluation measures our ability to transition into a wartime/contingency posture. The Phase I ORI evaluates our wing's ability to mobilize, generate and deploy from Spangdahlem AB. The inspection consists of the following major rated areas: Command and control, deployment processing, aircraft generation, aircraft deployment, regeneration and force protection.

Getting ready for an inspection is like getting ready for a big game. For Team Eifel, this is our World Series. While you may feel intimidated by the sheer number of issues that you must juggle, keep in mind that the inspector general team will be watching to see if we are following our own procedures.

Understanding the rulebook is

the first step to winning the game. One of my previous bosses would say, "this is an open book test and we know the questions in advance." This is certainly true for the deployment portion of the inspection. There is guidance on virtually every aspect of the deployment process. If people and cargo are prepared in accordance with the regulations, then there should be no reason for concern. The key is to understand the deployment process and be prepared to deploy at the proper time.

The generation, deployment and regeneration portion of the inspection is also pretty straightforward. The wing will be evaluated on its ability to manage resources required to generate the tasked aircraft including required weapons loads within an established timeframe.

Particular emphasis will be placed on adherence to technical data, safety regulations and local directives. Again, in order to win

the game, you must follow the rules.

On the other hand, the IG will toss a few curve balls our way and evaluate the wing's ability to exercise command and control, generate/deploy aircraft, as well as, react to potential terrorist threats.

Regardless of the scenario, the IG will "stress" the wing to evaluate how well we react to the "fog and friction of war." While some of this fog or friction will be IG-induced, most of the uncertainties are created internally.

We can minimize these variables by thoroughly planning and exercising for a worse case scenario. Checklists are often helpful to ensure we don't miss something when in the heat of battle. Great communication both up and down the chain is essential.

On many occasions, our people get wrapped around the axle about the realism of an exercise scenario. Keep in mind that the IG will have certain objectives that they wish to evaluate us on. Don't fight the IG,

fight the war. The scenario is really not the issue. Whether it's a terrorist attack, weapon of mass destruction incident, or simply a loss of communications, the IG wants to see how well we exercise command and control and follow established procedures. Ask yourself, "what would I do if this was for real?"

Other than considerations for safety or cost, don't simulate anything without approval by your chain of command. React with a sense of urgency while maintaining situational awareness. To be successful, everyone must work to reduce the "fog and friction of war."

As with any inspection, first impressions go a long way. If we look sharp and act sharp, it's easy to show the IG that we are a championship team. So as you get ready for our World Series, give consideration to what you will do once the IG begins tossing curve balls in the fog. I'm sure you'll knock it out of the park!

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated. More synopsis information is available at www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Bitburg Castle**Today**

Austin Powers in Goldmember (PG-13)

It's been three years since Austin Powers, that swinging international man of mystery, has had to face his arch enemy, Dr. Evil. But after Dr. Evil and his accomplice Mini-Me escape from a maximum-security prison, Austin is called to action once more in this third installment of the highly successful Austin Powers movie franchise. Teaming up with the mysterious yet peculiar Goldmember, Dr. Evil hatches a time-traveling scheme to take over the world, one that involves the kidnapping of Nigel Powers, Austin's beloved father and England's most renowned spy. As he chases the villains through time, Austin visits 1975 and joins forces with his old flame, Foxy Cleopatra, a streetwise but stylish detective. Together Austin and Foxy must find a way to save Nigel and stop Dr. Evil and Goldmember from their mischievous mayhem. (Sexual innuendo, crude humor and language)

Saturday

Juwanna Mann (PG-13)

Jamal Jeffries and his trash-talking, ball-hogging, team-hating ways get him booted out of the league. When his fancy accessories-crib, cars, ultra-fine girlfriend-dribble away as quickly as his career, a desperate, financially-strapped Jamal takes his last shot at crashing the boards. Transforming himself into female power forward "Juwanna Mann," Jamal scores a tryout with the only pro organization that will take him-the women's league. It's tough enough for Jamal/Juwanna to contend with fierce competition on the court and proper protocol in the ladies' locker room, but his identity crisis hits another snag when he falls for team captain Michelle Langford. Too bad Michelle is already tight with smooth-talking lady killer Romeo, a dawg with moves sprung straight from Jamal's old bad boy playbook. (Language and sex-related material)

Sunday

Austin Powers in Goldmember

Closed Monday and Tuesday**Wednesday**

Juwanna Mann

Thursday

Hey Arnold (PG)

Arnold is Nickelodeon's football-headed, untucked-shirted, city-living, stickball-playing kid toon star. Arnold lives in his grandparents' boarding house with a group of eccentric grown-ups who don't always get along. Together with his cool-as-ice best pal Gerald, tough-as-nails Helga the girl who both hates and loves him and the rest of the gang from the neighborhood, Arnold tackles life in the big city the best way a wise-beyond-his-years fourth-grader knows how.

Spangdahlem Skyline**Today**

Powerpuff Girls (PG)

Based on the hit animated television series, this feature film adaptation tells the story of how Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup three exuberant young girls, obtain their unique powers, become superheroes and join forces to foil evil mutant monkey Mojo Jojo's plan to take over the world.

Signs (PG-13, 10 p.m.)

Signs is a thriller set in Bucks County, Penn., focusing on the mysterious appearance of a 500-foot design of circles and lines carved into a family's crops. Mel Gibson stars as Graham Hess, the family patriarch, who is tested in his journey to find the truth behind the unfolding mystery. Joaquin Phoenix is Merrill Hess, brother to Graham and a former minor league baseball star. (Some frightening moments.)

Saturday

Powerpuff Girls

Signs (10 p.m.)**Sunday**

Star Wars: Episode 2

Ten years after the events of The Phantom Menace, not only has the galaxy undergone significant change, but so have our familiar heroes Obi-Wan Kenobi, Padmé Amidala and Anakin Skywalker as they are thrown together again for the first time since the Trade Federation invasion of Naboo. Anakin has grown into the accomplished Jedi apprentice of Obi-Wan, who himself has transitioned from student to teacher. The two Jedi are assigned to protect Padmé whose life is threatened by a faction of political separatists. As relationships form and powerful forces collide, these heroes face choices that will impact not only their own fates, but also the destiny of the Republic.

Monday

Powerpuff Girls

Tuesday

Signs

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.

Nearby park offers full day of fun

By Iris Reiff
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

While the weather continues to stay nice in the Eifel area, people from Spangdahlem Air Base might consider taking a trip to the nearby Gondorf Animal and Fun Park, located between Spangdahlem and Bitburg. At the park, visitors can enjoy a full day of fun with friends or family.

Gondorf offers several beautiful walking trails where people can see and enjoy animals. Among the animals are deer, geese, bears and marmots - all kept in a natural surrounding.

Gondorf has numerous rides and entertainment areas offering slides, sailboats, water raft, roller coaster, several carousels and small go-cart tracks, an outdoor theater with life shows, children's jumping castle, shooting stands, museums, falcon shows, puppet plays and more.

For those who would like to enjoy the park without having to walk far, a train comes by every hour to pick up passengers. The train goes around, finally stopping at the top of the hill near those attractions that are located the furthest away from the entrance. While riding the train, relax and listen to a recording which gives information about the park and the different animals.

Food and beverage stands are available at the park offering German snacks, waffles and ice cream.

For those who would prefer a full-size lunch over a snack, there is a German-style restaurant located right outside the park. Meals usually cost between 12-15 euro.

The park is open daily from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily. Entrance is 12 euro for adults. Children, ages 4-14, senior citizens over age 60 and handicapped

people pay 10 euro to get into the park. Children below age 4 enter for free. Price reductions are offered to groups of 20 people and more.

Friday is always Family Day. Each adult, paying the full entrance price can bring in a child free of charge. The park also offers a season card for 41 euro.

Entrance prices include access to most rides and attractions. It is advisable to bring extra money for food and beverages as well as for souvenirs.

The summer season ends Oct. 13. While the animal side of the park remains open for the rest of the year, all rides will shut down for the cooler seasons. Entrance prices drop to 4.50 euro for adults and 4 euro for ages 4-14.

To get to Gondorf, travel toward Bitburg on B-50 until you see a huge sign on your left that reads "Eifel Park Gondorf."

Spang NCO wins in armed forces tournament

By Stefani Schulze
52nd Services Squadron

Mike Colman, a technical sergeant from the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, won the worldwide Armed Forces 11-Ball TournaMAXX Tournament.

TournaMAXX is a system of Megatouch video games connected to a Merit server by the use of a phone line and the Internet. Each connected game contains special tournament software and communications hardware that enables the player to participate in tournament play. This provides the player with an extra level of challenge competing with other American military players worldwide. Since the system is linked via the Internet, updates on new leaders and new players are made daily.

According to Larry Barnwell, 52nd Services Squadron slots and amusements manager, the system has been here since February and usage has increased greatly over the past couple of months.

"We're now at a point where we have loyal players

participating frequently in the contests. As their skill level increases, we should see even more people winning prizes."

Colman, who often plays the Megatouch games at Club 2012 after work, won one week free lodging through the Armed Forces Vacation Club. He knew the competition was tough, but says, "I've played TournaMAXX ever since it started here. I really didn't think I would win, but 11-Ball is my favorite game."

Colman hopes to redeem his prize in Hawaii or Greece and said, "These touch screen contests are great for anyone who is competitive, likes nice prizes and likes to have fun."

Other Team Eifel winners and their prizes are: 6th Place, Cherie Branham, one week free resort lodging; 12th Place, Dale Zin, folding chair with cooler; 17th Place, Sandy Sandoval, folding chair w/cooler; 36th Place, Jeremy Flynn, soft-sided 12-pack cooler; 54th Place, Eric Guth, beach towel; 56th Place, Ron Branham, beach towel; 62nd Place, James McPimpem, beach towel; 122nd Place, Mykael Edwards, cooler; and 129th Place, Clifford Millette, cooler.

Out and About

(Note: Events are subject to change at short notice. To double-check on an event prior to attending, call the telephone information office at 11833 and ask for a number to the tourist office in the town the event takes place. Tourist office agents, who usually speak English, can say whether an event was canceled.)

■ Plan to attend a book fair in Vianden, Luxembourg, today through Sunday.

■ The Rhine will be set aflame with fire works displays Sept. 21 at 10 p.m. in St. Goar and St. Goarhausen. Call 06741-383 for more information.

■ Munich's famous Oktoberfest takes place Sept. 21 through Oct. 6.

Information, Tickets and Tours offers the following tours in September and October.

People should register for trips at least three days in advance. Call the Spangdahlem Air Base Community Activity Center at 452-6567 or the

Bitburg Annex ITT office at 06561-945937 for details.

■ Paris express, Saturday. Cost is \$75 for ages 3-17, \$89 for adults.

■ Cologne City and chocolate museum, Sept. 14. Cost is \$30 for ages 3-12, \$35 for adults.

■ Venice and Nove, Italy, Sept. 13-14. Cost is \$100 for a single seat, \$130 for a double seat.

■ Oktoberfest express, Sept. 21. Cost is \$75.

■ Rhein in Flames, St. Goar, Sept. 21. Cost is \$80.

■ Medieval Dinner at Cochem Castle, Sept. 21. Cost is \$65.

■ Oktoberfest, Sept. 22-23. Cost is \$229.

■ Oktoberfest express, Sept. 28. Cost is \$75.

■ Brussels express, Sept. 28. Cost is \$35 for ages 3-12 and \$40 for adults.

■ Oktoberfest, Oct. 5-6. Cost is \$219.

■ Oktoberfest express, Oct. 5. Cost is \$75.

■ Karlsbad and Flea market shopping, Oct. 11-12. Cost is \$60 for single seat, \$90 for double seat.

■ Heidelberg Bazaar, Oct. 12. Cost is \$20 for children, \$25 for adults.

■ Medieval Dinner at Cochem Castle, Oct. 12. Cost is \$65.

■ Berlin, Oct. 12-13. Cost is \$134 for ages 3-12, \$159 for adults.

■ Poland shopping express, Oct. 18-19. Cost is \$80 for single seat, \$110 for double seat.

■ Paris delight, Oct. 19-20. Cost is \$134 for ages 3-12 and \$189 for adults.

■ Frankenstein's Castle and Halloween party, Oct. 26. Cost is \$39.

■ Halloween at Disneyland, Oct. 26. Cost is \$69 for ages 3-11 and \$79 for adults.

Barons open football season with loss

By Rik Carr
Bitburg Barons coach

For the second consecutive year, the Bitburg Barons lost its season opener to the SHAPE Spartans.

In a nonconference match against Division II rivals, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe shutout visiting Bitburg 18-0 Saturday.

SHAPE got off to an early lead with a touchdown pass on their third play. The only high point for the Barons was tackle Randy Vanginkel's blocked point-after-try attempt. The Barons put their new double-wing offense to the test on the next series, but failed to move the ball consistently. SHAPE scored again as the Barons faced a 12-0 score in the first quarter.

Second-quarter action saw the Spartans again score and the Barons went in at halftime down 18-0.

Second-half action was a stalemate as both teams moved the ball, but neither found the goal line and the game ended 18-0.

In junior varsity action, it was all Bitburg as the JV squad

dominated an abbreviated game against the Spartans. David Jenkins showed his running ability, scoring for the Barons.

This was a nonconference game for the Division II North teams. They play a conference game Oct. 19 at Bitburg High School in a homecoming showdown.

After last week's scrimmage with Division I Wiesbaden and Division III Baumholder, the Barons were pleased with the defensive and offensive play. Both units had a difficult time getting on track this week and it took two quarters of play to get things rolling.

This year's squad is led by returning senior lettermen captains Braden Blake and Jeremy Ponce, as well as seniors Andy Flores, Ryan Thomas, Billy Coker, Gary Adamoyurka, William Murray and Nick Sparkman. Newcomer seniors include Rob Gibson and Ryan Warner. The varsity team also has 12 juniors, four sophomores and two freshmen.

Offensively, the Barons will look to the quarterbacks — Flores and freshman BJ Phillips. Running backs are Ponce, Thomas, Coker, Jeff Graves, Tom Mueller, Devon Gardner,

Matt Bendus, Erik Polumbo and David Murray.

On the line Murray, Sparkman, Chris Cornell, Justin Cole, Randy Vanginkel, Scott Parry, Kris Kruse and Jeremy Wooten will provide the push for the offense to roll. Tight ends Gibson, Warner, Anthony Fornicola, Alyx Walks, Thomas Woodberry and Brandon Morales will be the heart of the passing attack.

Defensively, Blake, Ponce and Thomas return as standout players from last year's team. Newcomers Gibson, Vanginkel, Morales and Devon Gardner have shown their abilities on defense as well. Add returning Murray, Sparkman, Justin Cole, Bendus, Wooten, Cornell, Ryan Crawford and Scott Parry and the defense looks strong.

The Barons open at home in a nonconference game with the Hanau Panthers Saturday. Looking to improve last week's loss, the Barons hope to run their offense much more effectively and shore up their pass defense.

Game time is 10:30 a.m. for the JV, followed by the varsity at 1 p.m. on the high school field.

BHS cross country team opens 2002 season

By Geary Schwartz
Bitburg High School Cross Country Coach

The Bitburg High School cross country team, led by Ramie Gibson and co-captains Kirstin Pope and Steve Gutschow, participated in a 10 team race hosted by Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe High School Sept. 7.

The boy's team placed sixth overall while the girl's team did not score, as two of the six Baron runners did not complete the race due to injuries. To score, a team must have a minimum of five runners complete the race.

Gibson, a sophomore, outspurred her senior teammate, Pope, in the final 50 meters after the two ran side by side for virtually the entire 5-kilometer (3.1 mile)

race. Gibson (24:35) placed 24th and Pope (24:36) placed 25th. Other BHS team members included Sharika Allen (26:18, 37th) and Meghan Weeg (27:27, 53rd) out of the 66 girls competing.

Returning for his third and final high school cross country season, Gutschow led the boy's contingent, placing 41st overall with a time of 20:50. Number two for Bitburg was first-year runner Jacob McMahan, placing 59th overall in 22:01. Other Baron runners included Ray Lichtenberger (23:09, 62nd), who set a personal best to open his 2002 campaign. Joel Parker (24:18, 69th), and Chris Lyng (27:07, 76th). Eighty boys participated in the race.

This week, the team travels to Brussels.



Courtesy photo

Members of the Bitburg High School girl's cross country team take off at their meet Sept. 7 at SHAPE in Belgium.

Sports shorts

Cardio machines broken

The Skelton Memorial Fitness Center currently has a number of cardio machines out of order. The fitness center has just received emergency funds to repair the machines.

Patrons are asked to be patient and understanding until the machines are working again. People are also asked to limit time on cardio machines so other people are able to keep up with their fitness routines. For more information, call 452-6634.

Volleyball practice

High-school age girls in grades 9-12 are invited to join the Bitburg High School volleyball team. Practice runs Monday through Friday at 3:30 p.m. in the high school gym.

Fitness center closures

The Skelton Memorial Fitness Center basketball court closes through Sunday for the senior NCO induction ceremony. Additionally, the entire fitness center closes Saturday from 1 p.m. through Sunday at 8 a.m.

Sports Day change

The wing sports day is now Sept. 27 from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. To participate, call unit sports representatives or the base fitness center at 452-6634.

Swim team

The Eifel Sharks swim team needs swimmers of all ages and skill levels. Registration is Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. at the Spangdahlem or Bitburg youth programs.

This registration is also for the "Minnows" league, which is a developmental league designed to prepare swimmers to move up to the team.

Swimmers need to be able to swim one length unassisted to join the Minnows.

The Eifel Sharks is a private organization, so people are requested to call one of the numbers below and not the AYA. For more information, call 06561-604768 or 06562-966812.

Recreational trips

Outdoor recreation sponsors the following trips. The minimum age for trips is 12, unless listed otherwise. Call 452-7176 or visit the shop in building 146, near the Mosel Hall dining facility for more information.

■ Castle, cave and spa trip, Saturday. Cost is \$45 with spa, \$30 without.

■ Trout fishing, Sunday. Cost is \$25.

■ Baltic deep-sea fishing, Sept. 21. Cost is \$70 with gear rental, \$60 with own gear.

■ Bad Wildbad mountain biking park, Sept. 22. Cost is \$45.

■ Mosel grapes to wine trip, Sept. 29. Cost is \$35.

Youth sports news

■ The Department of Defense Dependent Schools requires all student athletes to have annual physical exams. Call the appointment line at 06565-958333 to schedule an appointment with the primary care manager.

■ Register for Tae Kwon Do classes in the Bitburg Annex building 84. Call 452-9508 for details.

■ Eifel Youth Sports are located in Spangdahlem Air Base building 427 and Bitburg Annex building 2013. Call 452-7545 or 452-9274 for youth sports opportunities.

Golf news

The following event takes place at the Eifel Mountain Golf Course on Spangdahlem Air Base. Call 452-6821 for more information.

■ Eifel Mountain Open tournament, Sept. 21-22. Tee time is 9 a.m. Cost is \$25, plus green fees. This is an 18-hole, handicap event.

Paintball

The paintball fields open for play each Sunday. Call 01607-186450 for details.